

many Americans to use seat belts, child restraints, and other safety devices.

The Decade of Action for Road Safety has not been declared to merely raise awareness, but also to take action. We all use roads, cars, buses, and bicycles every day. It is easy to take our safety for granted. But too many tragedies remind us that road fatalities and injuries have an enormous impact on our lives. As Americans travel the world more and more and as our global society grows ever more close-knit, the pressing importance of our observance of the World Day of Remembrance only grows as well.

Mr. Speaker, no one should die because of entirely preventable traffic accidents. We must do everything we can to raise awareness and address the underlying causes. On this year's Day of Remembrance, let us pay extra attention to ways we can make the world a safer place.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
JON MARTHEDAL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jon Marthedal, a third generation farmer from Fresno, California. Jon has been named Agriculturalist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Jon has been instrumental in enhancing the San Joaquin Valley by advocating for business opportunities and encouraging innovation in our community. A distinguished farmer and leader, Jon is certainly deserving of recognition by the Chamber.

Marthedal Farms has been a family operation since its inception in 1903. Upon immigrating to the United States from Denmark, Harold Marthedal, Sr. purchased 20 acres of property. Years later, his son Harold Jr. took over and worked to expand the size of the farm. Today, Marthedal Farms is operated by Jon and his son Eric. They manage about 700 acres of raisin grapes, table grapes, and blueberries.

Jon has been an important part of the agricultural community for many years. Upon earning his degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno, he began his career at Sun-Maid Growers in 1978. In ten years, he became Director, and then served as Vice Chairman before becoming Chairman in 1999. Through his progressive and innovative work, Jon has become a respected voice in matters pertaining to California agriculture.

Jon's passion and commitment to agriculture has been demonstrated by his enthusiastic membership and leadership within a number of agriculture-based organizations. He serves as Secretary of the Raisin Administrative Committee, Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Council of California, Chairman of the California Blueberry Commission, and is a member of the Board Restructuring Committee for CoBank—a lender to cooperatives. For over 100 years, Marthedal Farms has been an integral part of maintaining the San Joaquin Valley's status as the breadbasket of the world.

Jon and his wife Sandy have three children. Whether he is spending time with his family

and friends, or serving our community, Jon has always been known to be a man of principle and integrity.

I applaud Jon for his many years of work and congratulate him on his well-deserved recognition from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in applauding and expressing appreciation for Jon's work.

NATIONAL NURSE PRACTITIONER
WEEK

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of National Nurse Practitioner Week.

This honorary week, November 13th through the 19th, celebrates the vital service that over 148,000 nurse practitioners provide to patients around the country. At a time when there is a shortage of primary care physicians, more and more Americans are turning to nurse practitioners to help with their medical problems.

Nurse practitioners are highly educated, licensed clinicians that provide a broad range of patient-focused care. Besides treating medical needs, nurse practitioners also focus on health promotion and disease prevention as well as health education that helps guide patients and assist them in making healthy choices in their day-to-day lives. Nurse practitioners improve the lives of Americans and help reduce health care costs. We should celebrate nurse practitioners as a crucial part of our healthcare system and a solution to many of the problems it faces.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important work of nurse practitioners across the nation.

HONORING MICHAEL DUANE
CURTIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Duane Curtis. Michael is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 247, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Michael has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Michael has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Duane Curtis for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MIKE WHITT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MINGO COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to my colleagues' attention, during these times of budgetary debate, the significant savings realized by the taxpayers of our country by the vision and work of one of my constituents, Mr. Mike Whitt, the Executive Director of the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority.

In pursuit of sound, forward-thinking economic development initiatives, Mike was light-years ahead of other jurisdictions when he began forging public-private partnerships to save taxpayer dollars, leveraging public funding and above all creating good paying sustainable jobs for families. No slick financing schemes; no hocus pocus accounting tricks here. Mike did his homework and did it well. He still does. Anyone, who has ever had the good fortune to participate in one of his project presentations, knows they have to be on their toes to answer detailed questions about what they can bring to the table.

Mike has travelled the country sharing his valuable time with agencies and associations to spread the word about how some old-fashioned hard work in planning economic development ventures upfront can save millions in the end. He has given freely of his experience and expertise so others can adopt his sensible and thoughtful approach to investing public funds to address citizen's needs for a darn good return on the taxpayer's dime.

As we debate ways to improve our budget in the coming weeks, I hope my colleagues will look to the results sound public investment can yield when that investment is married with private investment and properly managed. I am certain the Mingo County Redevelopment Authority will be happy to share their accomplishments.

In a larger sense, Mike Whitt serves as a bright beacon to all who strive to serve the public, administer public programs, and manage public funds. Our country owes Mike a debt of great gratitude for his work and his years of sacrifice away from family and friends to serve the public good.

Recently, Mike has been battling some health issues. Mike is a man of great faith, a strong fighter, who has the courage of his convictions. We know though he appreciates the power of partnership, so we welcome your thoughts and prayers for Mike and his family as he tackles this personal challenge.

TAIWAN AIRPOWER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, China should not dictate what America can or cannot do. But, when it comes to our Taiwan policy, it seems we kowtow to the wannabe empire of the East. China has over 1,400 missiles pointed at Taiwan, and military experts agree that Taiwan is losing its ability to even slow China

down if it chooses to attack. Yet China tells the U.S. "don't sell F-16s to Taiwan" and so we don't.

On September 21st, the Administration officially notified Congress of its decision to only offer Taiwan an upgrade of existing F-16A/Bs, rather than sell 66 new F-16 C/Ds as the Government in Taipei had requested. The C/D aircraft would've gone to replace the 30-year-old F-5s. Now, the Ft. Worth, Texas production line may close because of lack of new orders. This should not be an issue. Our good friends, the Taiwanese, want to buy them.

The U.S. needs to boost its economy and prevent Chinese aggression. This sale would've been good for everybody. Everybody, that is, except China. America has to do what is in our best interest. And, it is not in our best interest to give in to a brutal, communist regime while forsaking our democratic ally. I fully support selling modern aircraft to Taiwan.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THOMAS MORAN AND THE HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role played by the artists of the Hudson River School in the development of the conservation movement and the creation of America's National Park System. In particular, I rise to honor the painter Thomas Moran, who came to prominence in the United States in the 1870's for the landscapes he painted while accompanying the geological and geographic survey of America's West headed by Ferdinand V. Hayden. During that era, the promotion of settlement and commerce in America's West was a centerpiece of federal domestic policy, with a special focus on exploiting the area's vast natural resources. However, watercolors by Moran sent back to Washington with Hayden's scientific data helped convince Congress that certain areas of exceptional beauty in the West should be preserved in their natural state.

Shortly after Congress established the first National Park at Yellowstone, Moran's 7 by 11 foot canvas "The Grand Canyon of The Yellowstone" was unveiled to the public at the U.S. Capitol. If any pictorial representation could do justice to the West's natural treasures, it was the large-scale landscape style of Moran and his contemporaries. These massive paintings captured the popular imagination, compelling Congress to expand federal land holdings in the West and establish Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks in California and Mount Rainier National Park in Washington before the close of the 19th Century.

Moran later accompanied John Wesley Powell's survey of the Utah and Arizona Territories, documenting the natural formations of what are now Zion and Arches National Parks. On this expedition, Moran encountered the natural wonder that would fascinate him for the rest of his life: the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. In 1874, Congress purchased

Moran's massive canvas: "The Chasm of the Colorado," which he produced along with two dozen wood engravings for a widely read account of the Powell expedition published in Scribner's Monthly magazine. Moran wrote of the Grand Canyon, which joined the ranks of the National Parks in 1912: "Of all places on Earth the great canyon of Arizona is the most inspiring in its pictorial possibilities."

Mr. Speaker, later in life, Moran spent many years living and working in East Hampton, in New York's First Congressional District, where the unique quality of light has attracted some of our Nation's finest painters. However, we are truly fortunate that his prodigious talent found a fitting subject in the incomparable majesty of the American West. Along with his contemporary Albert Bierstadt and the other members of the Hudson River School, Moran introduced millions of Americans to our western lands and played a vital role in encouraging his generation to preserve America's Crown Jewels—our National Parks—for the enjoyment of generations to come.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2112, CONSOLIDATED AND FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill, but it is certainly worthy of our support. H.R. 2112 represents a fair compromise between both parties and is an example of how we can achieve concrete results for the American people if we roll up our sleeves and get to work. Earlier today, I called on Congress to skip the upcoming planned recess so we can accomplish the business of the American people. Passage of this bill will represent the first step forward in that regard.

There is much to be proud of in this legislation. H.R. 2112 provides \$2.5 billion for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is \$334 million above the House-passed version of the legislation. This bill will give FDA the necessary resources to continue the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, of which I am the author and will help keep tainted food off of our shelves. We will also restore our commitment to the most vulnerable among us by providing \$6.6 billion for the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) nutrition program, which is \$570 million over the House-passed level.

I have called on my colleagues to pass legislation that will invest in our infrastructure and H.R. 2112 will make small progress in that area. It includes \$500 million for a third round of TIGER grants, which have been critical in helping state and local governments to move forward on large, regional projects that will have significant impacts on their communities. The federal-aid highway program will receive \$39.8 billion, which is \$12.1 billion more than the House proposal, an investment that will result in 400,000 more jobs than what House Republicans supported. This bill will also include \$10.5 billion for transit programs, \$2.5 billion more than the House bill, which means DOT will be able to continue to support

projects that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide commuters with an alternative to their personal vehicles when traveling to work or to run errands. I am, however, disappointed that this bill contains no funding for high-speed rail. I would remind my colleagues that we are continuing to cede innovative ground on this development to the Chinese, Japanese and French, and it is imperative we do not halt progress on President Obama's vision to create national high-speed rail network.

H.R. 2112 will also invest in innovation by providing an increase of \$173 billion, or \$7 billion, for the National Science Foundation. This investment is critical to ensuring that the United States is supporting high-risk, high-pay-off ideas that the private market cannot or will not invest in. Such innovation will also be supported through an increase in funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which helps small to medium-sized manufacturers to become more efficient and more competitive in a globalized economy. It also maintains funding for research efforts in the Great Lakes, a national treasure we must preserve and which provides countless opportunities for recreation, conservation, and jobs.

Compromise is never perfect, and quite often neither side is fully satisfied with the outcome. But everyone will need to make sacrifices if we are to adequately address the unfinished business of the American people. And that is what this bill is—unfinished business. H.R. 2112 will ensure that Congress is back here to have the same debate on a different set of appropriation bills on December 16th. If Congress had passed the 12 appropriations bills individually, we would not be debating H.R. 2112 today.

We were elected to be civic leaders who could put public interests before self interests. It is not in America's best interest to sit here refusing to support a bill that does not mirror each of our individual priorities. What is in America's best interest and helps move us forward is to come together today and support a compromise that, while imperfect, gets the job done. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to serve that purpose by supporting this bill and continue to find ways to make meaningful agreements to pass legislation that will put Americans back to work and help rebuild our economy.

MISSISSIPPI AND VIRGINIA MAKE HISTORY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, history was made last week in off-year elections with Republicans gaining a majority in the Mississippi House for the first time in years and Republicans gaining a majority in the Virginia Senate, along with the State House and the Governorship for the first time in 130 years.

With these gains, Republicans are now state legislative majorities in both houses in all states from Texas to Florida to Virginia and all states in between except narrowly in Arkansas.

I am grateful my home state of South Carolina is symbolic of change. Fifty years ago this